## 2023 Statewide Medical and Health Exercise

# Chemical Fire with Burn & Pediatric Surge Scenario

# EMS / Ambulance Services Objectives

**How To Use This Document:** *The purpose of this document is to provide sample objectives and capabilities for exercise planners to select from in designing their Statewide Medical and Health Exercise (SWMHE). These capabilities and their supporting objectives were identified based on the Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP)(formerly MYTEP) developed by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). To access this document, visit* <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/EPO/Pages/swmhe.aspx>

*To use this document, insert your agency/organization’s name in the bracketed text in the header that reads “Insert Name Of Agency/Organization Here.” Review the suggested capabilities and objectives and* ***consider them as options to create an Exercise Plan that is customized to the unique characteristics of your organization******and community****. Select and modify as needed. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA),* ***ten or fewer objectives are recommended for a functional exercise****.*

## Applicable Capabilities

| **Type** | **Capability** | **Capability Goal** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| HPP | Health Care and Medical Response Coordination | Health care organizations, the Health Care Coalition (HCC), their jurisdiction(s), and the ESF-8 lead agency plan and collaborate to share and analyze information, manage and share resources, and coordinate strategies to deliver medical care to all populations during emergencies and planned events. |
| HPP | Continuity of Health Care Service Delivery | Health care organizations, with support from the HCC and the ESF-8 lead agency, provide uninterrupted, optimal medical care to all populations in the face of damaged or disabled health care infrastructure. Health care workers are well-trained, well-educated, and well-equipped to care for patients during emergencies. |
| HPP | Medical Surge | Health care organizations – including hospitals, emergency medical services (EMS), and out of hospital providers – deliver timely and efficient care to their patients even when the demand for health care services exceeds available supply. The HCC coordinates information and all available resources for its members to maintain conventional surge response. When an emergency overwhelms the HCCs collective resources, the HCC facilitates the health care system’s transition to contingency and crisis surge response and its return to conventional standards of care. |

# Proposed Objectives

## Objective One

Activate the Incident Command System (ICS) per scenario or hazard-specific plan and/or local policies and procedures within the first [XX] minutes of notification of incident and incorporate responding ambulance units into on-scene ICS structure. *Health Care Preparedness and Response Capability 2: Health Care and Medical Response and Recovery Coordination.*

Sample Task(s):

* Establish a ground ambulance coordinator within the [XX] first minutes
* Identify an ambulance staging area, considering immediate and future needs, and assign personnel to staff the staging area within the first [XX] minutes
* Identify ambulance loading area and assign personnel to staff the loading area within the first 45 minutes.
* Per scenario or hazard-specific plan and/or local policies and procedures, ensure hospital emergency department bed availability through MCI bed polling.
* Establish single point resource ordering with Incident Commander regarding ambulance needs for response
* Establish communication with the local Medical/Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC) program for out of county mutual aid/mutual assistance.

## Objective Two

Per local policies and procedures, provide situational awareness to the Local Emergency Medical Services Agency (LEMSA) and/or Medical and Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC) Program for inclusion in the Public Health & Medical Emergency Operations Manual Situation Report within [XX] minutes of activation. *Health Care Preparedness and Response Capability 2: Health Care and Medical Response and Recovery Coordination.*

Sample Task(s):

* Contact the appropriate LEMSA and/or MHOAC representative through designated communication channels to poll available ambulance resources through mutual aid agreements, Memoranda of Understanding (MOU), or Automatic Aid Agreements, etc.
* Re-evaluate resource request and incident resource needs every [XX] minutes or during periods of low activity.
* Forecast response times and availability of transport units every [XX] minutes and provide updates in coordination with the MHOAC, LEMSA, and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
* Consider requesting an Ambulance Taskforce Management Team that includes a documentation unit to manage deployment paperwork.

## Objective Three

Implement and manage medical surge strategies upon activation of appropriate plans. *Health Care Preparedness and Response Capability 4: Medical Surge.*

Sample Task(s):

* Consider surge strategies such as changing shift lengths or crew configurations, and using alternate vehicles, community healthcare representatives (aides) or paramedicine, or other non-ambulance responses in coordination with dispatch priorities
* Activate the local Multi-Casualty Incident Management Plans and consider the need to request the activation of the State Patient Movement Plan.
* Consider supplementing standard deployment with additional units in anticipation of a surge in EMS responses.
* Implement EMS patient distribution strategies to avoid overloading any single hospital utilizing existing MCI plans.
* Identify means of non-traditional EMS transportation (buses, etc.)

## Objective Four

Provide effective risk communication during the incident in coordination with other local and regional players through the operation of a Joint Information Center (JIC). *Health Care Preparedness and Response Capability 2: Health Care and Medical Response and Recovery Coordination.*

Sample Task(s):

* Confirm predetermined methods of notification and redundant communication pathways, as radio and other non-secure methods of communication may be monitored by the media or the public
* Coordinate with the scene safety officer to address any concerns for responders and/or the general public and appropriate protective actions within 1 hour of arrival on-scene.

## Objective Five

Conduct appropriate measures to ensure the protection of the health and safety of the public and staff, as well as the environment, from all hazards, in support of responder operations and the affected communities. *Health Care Preparedness and Response Capability 3: Continuity of Health Care Service Delivery.*

Sample Task(s):

* Identify, assess, and mitigate worker health and safety hazards, and disseminate health and safety guidance and resources to response and recovery workers
* Minimize public exposure to environmental hazards through assessment of the hazards and implementation of public protective actions
* Procure lodging for staff as needed

## Objective Six

Prepare the organization for the continuous provision of essential services to staff during and after the disaster. *Health Care Preparedness and Response Capability 3: Continuity of Health Care Service Delivery.*

Sample Task(s):

* Put in place a succession plan to maintain operations, should primary positions become vacant within 12 hours of event notification
* Ensure that operations related to the continuity of the business are sustainable for 72 hours and these strategies are documented within a recovery plan
* Coordinate with administration and leadership to facilitate access to and promote availability of mental and behavioral health services for staff